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November 14, 2002

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NOV 1 8 2002

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/909,896; Filed: July 23, 2001

For: Methods and Systems for Digitally Processing Optical Data Signals

Inventors:

Agazzi et al.

Our Ref:

1875.1100001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following docum

- 1. Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2. Two (2) sheets of Form PTO-1449 listing eight (8) reference documents;
- 3. One (1) copy of each referenced document; and
- 4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC. : 1100 New York Avenue, NW : Washington, DC 20005 : 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540 : www.skgf.com

Commissioner for Patents November 14, 2002 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Patrick E. Garrett

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 39,987

PEG:mlb Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:74421.1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Agazzi et al.

Appl. No. 09/909,896

Filed: July 23, 2001

For:

Methods and Systems for Digitally

Processing Optical Data Signals

Confirmation No. 9207

Art Unit: 2662

Examiner: Tran, Thien

Atty. Docket: 1875.1100001

Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sır:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- □ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97((b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- □ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - □ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1,97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office

in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- □ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1,97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- □ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ ____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- □ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. ______ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
 - □ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1,97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - □ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1,97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

- **5**. The documents were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the search report is enclosed as document AR2.
- □6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- □ 7. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. ______, filed , which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

Kessler, Goldstein & Fox p.l.l.c.

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(202) 371-2600 SKGF_DC1:72459.1

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	Winters, G., "Electrical Signal Processing Techniques in Long-Haul, Fiber-Optic Systems," <i>IEEE International Conference on Communications</i> , IEEE, April 1990, pages 397-403.										
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EXAMINER : Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.											